

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 SAM-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 NEA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO BEAT DRUMS FOR USSR'S AUGUST 22 INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS. RECENT CAMPAIGN HAS INTENSIFIED CRITICISM OF US AND NATO POLICY FOR ATTEMPTING TO KEEP SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS CRISIS WITHIN "NATO FAMILY." STATEMENT AND COMMENT CRITICIZING US ROLE IN CYPRUS-- PARTICULARLY FROM GREEK AND CYPRIOT SOURCES--HAVE RECEIVED HEAVY PLAY. MEDIA'S TILT IN FAVOR OF GREECE HAS BECOME MORE PRO- NOUNCED, BUT PRESS CONTINUES TO REFRAIN FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS CAMPAIGN ON CYPRUS DURING LAST WEEK HAS JUXTAPOSED HEAVY COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SOVIET INITIATIVE AGAINST ALMOST DAILY CRITICISM OF US AND NATO EFFORTS TO REJUVENATE GENEVA TALKS AND OF US ATTEMPTS TO GAIN MEDITERRANEAN

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BASES. PRAVDA PRESS WRAP-UP (SEPT 7) AND NEW TIMES COMMENTARY (SEPT 6) REPORT BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT--WITH STRESS ON

GREEK AND CYPRIOT OPINION--FOR CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS AND CHARGE THAT NATO ATTEMPTS TO REACTIVATE GENEVA TALKS ARE REGARDED AS HINDRANCE TO ATTAINING A JUST CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. EARLIER, PRESS REPORTED MAKARIOS SUPPORT FOR SOVIET INITIATIVE (PRAVDA SEPT 3), GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS' POSITIVE COMMENTS ON IDEA OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR CYPRUS (PRAVDA SEPT 3) AND WORLD PEACE COUNCIL DECISION--AT INITIATIVE OF CYPRIOT LABOR PARTY--TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. PRAVDA'S REPORT OF AUGUST 30 UNSC DEBATE (SEPT 1) REPLAYED SUBSTANCE OF MALIK STATEMENT TO COUNCIL AND NOTED INDONESIAN REP'S VIEW THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL DESERVED STUDY.

3. ON US, PRAVDA (SEPT3) REPORT OF "SPEIGEL" INTERVIEW WITH MAKARIOS REPORTS ARCHBISHOP AS SAYING HE DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT CIA HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF PUTSCH. AND IZVESTIYA (SEPT 3) REPORTS THAT GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS ACCUSED THE CIA OF "ORGANIZING" THE 1967 COUP IN GREECE AS WELL AS "RECENT EVENTS IN CYPRUS." PRAVDA SAME DAY LIMITED ITSELF TO REPLAYING STATEMENT BY MAVROS CHARGING THAT TENSION IN US-GREEK RELATIONS STEMS FROM WASHINGTON'S EARLIER SUPPORT OF GREEK JUNTA. PRESS HAS ALSO HOMED IN ON CHARGES OF US PRESSURE ON GREECE TO RECONSIDER NATO WITHDRAWAL. PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY BRAGIN (SEPT 3) ALLUDES TO "PENTAGON PRESSURE" ON ATHENS, BUT CONCLUDES THAT GREEKS ARE MAINTAINING THEIR POSITION IN VIEW OF THE "PROVOCATION ROLE OF NATO MILITARISTS" OVER CYPRUS. ON SAME THEME, PRAVDA COMMENTARY (SEPT 6) SUGGESTS THAT MAVROS' TRIP TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS IS AIMED AT OBTAINING ALTERNATIVES TO US CAPITAL AND CLAIMS THAT "OBSERVERS" BELIEVE THE US AND NATO WILL RESIST HIS EFFORTS.

4. PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO QUESTION OF WHERE NATO BASES NOW IN GREECE ARE TO BE RELOCATED. DISCUSSION HAS CENTERED ON TURKEY, ISRAEL, AND ITALY. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON SEPT 4 IN COMMENTARY BY V.PUSTOV DISCUSSED RELATIVE MERITS OF EACH DECIDED NATO WOULD NOT DARE ANGER ARABS BY TAKING UP ISRAELI OFFER; NOTED, WITHOUT EXPLAINING WHY, THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN NATO CIRCLES FOR EXPANSION OF NATO BASES ON TURKEY; AND CONCLUDED ITALY WILL BE MOST PROBABLE SITE. CHORUS OF ARTICLES IN CENTRAL PRESS HAS IN FACT CENTERED ATTENTION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ISLAND OF LAMPEDUSA, ACCUSING NATO AND THE US OF EXPANDING BASE THERE, AND WARNING ITALY OF PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF ANY FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE, BUT ESPECIALLY THAT OF NATO.

5. MEDIA TREATMENT OF GREECE HAS STRENGTHENED SOVIET TILT TOWARD ATHENS, BUT PRESS CONTINUES TO TREAT ANKARA WITH KID GLOVES. TURKEY'S REJECTION OF THE SOVIET'S AUGUST 22 PROPOSAL HAS BEEN REPORTED ONLY INDIRECTLY, E.G., IN STORY (PRAVDA SEPT 5) ON ECEVIT PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED TURKEY'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF THE GENEVA

TALKS. HOWEVER, THE PRESS HAS REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE TURKS AND HAS HANDLED GREEK AND TURKISH CLAIMS ABOUT ATROCITIES IN CYPRUS WITH RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD, FACTUAL REPORTS. ALONG SAME LINE, TURKISH AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD BRITISH THAT SOVIETS ARE STILL TAKING RESTRAINED LINE WITH TURKS AND SO FAR HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUTTING PRESSURE ON ANKARA. TURK ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAVE ADOPTED A "NOTABLY CONCILIATORY" LINE TOWARD GREECE.

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